

R12-319

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
Special Meeting
City Council Chambers, 2nd Session
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
10 a.m.

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha Chair Martin, and Respected Council Members,

I am writing in opposition of including labeling in the Hawaii State Association of Counties legislative package. I am a Molokai resident and have worked in the agricultural sector on this island for twenty years. This last minute effort to include labeling is the work of a small group of people attempting to force their ideological beliefs on the rest of Hawaii and has no basis in scientific fact.

The FDA has determined that genetically modified foods do not differ from non-genetically modified food and therefore do not have to be labeled. Requiring labeling for ingredients that don't pose a health issue would undermine both our labeling laws and consumer confidence. The enforcement of such a law would put a huge burden on our already overworked regulatory agencies and most definitely be cost prohibitive.

Consumers who have made a decision not to consume food containing genetically modified ingredients can easily avoid such products. All they have to do is purchase products certified as organic under the National Organic Program or have been voluntarily labeled as non-GMO. These products are readily available in the marketplace today in all grocery stores including the two grocery stores on Molokai.

Please reject the addition of labeling in the Hawaii State Association of Counties legislative package.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Joan F. Lasua
Hawaii Finance Specialist
Monsanto Molokai
1351 Maunaloa Highway
Kaunakakai, HI 96748